

THE EVENING STAR,

With Sunday Morning Edition.

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THEODORE W. NOYES, Editor

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The Joint Committee's Report.

The joint fiscal committee denies
the vital contentions of local under-
taxation and unfairness to the nation
upon which repeal of the half-and-
half law was demanded by its as-
sailants in the last House and sus-
tains the contentions for Washing-
ton upon these issues. It recom-
mends the continuance of the half-
and-half law so far as the District's
funded debt is concerned. It approves
the general policy of fiscal rela-
tions between nation and capital
like those created and continued by
the organic act, including as essen-
tials a local contribution toward cap-
ital upbuilding through taxation which
shall be "fixed and certain," and for
the nation "a definite policy of regu-
lar and liberal appropriations," and
not one that is indefinite, irregular
and fluctuating from year to year.The important decision by the com-
mittee against Washington is that
the half-and-half law—though an eco-
nomic necessity in 1878 and until very
recent years—is no longer needed to
assure this fixity and certainty of
equitable local taxation or this defi-
nite policy of regular and liberal ap-
propriations for the capital by Con-
gress.The vote of the House in the last
Congress against the half-and-half
law was based avowedly on the be-
lief that the Washingtonian was un-
dertaxed, and was paying about one-
half of what would be exacted from
him if his property were assessed
and taxed as in other comparable
American cities. The alleged facts
on which this erroneous belief was
founded were fully set forth in the
House debates.The joint fiscal committee finds
that the Washingtonian is not un-
derassessed and is not undertaxed,
and thus negates the reasons for the
hostile action of the last House. But
for other reasons than those which
brought the issue before it the joint
committee reports that there is no
need of and no reason for the future
continuance of a definite proportion
of national contribution toward cap-
ital upbuilding.This recommendation is not made
because the half-and-half provision is
found to be unfair to the United
States or unfair to the District; and
not because the organic act has not
from 1878 until today been substan-
tially obeyed. It is held that the
half-and-half law was an economic
necessity under the conditions of 1878,
but, says the committee, "we think
that the conditions of today . . .
are so different from the conditions of
1878 that this arbitrary rule—a rule
of then seeming necessity—need no
longer be applied to District approp-
riations."The campaign in the last House
against the organic act was based upon
allegations of taxable resources in
Washington, which made it the
wealthiest per capita and lightest tax-
ed of American cities, capable if rea-
sonably taxed like other comparable
cities of raising annually over fifteen
million dollars, or several million dol-
lars more than the whole amount
which Congress has for several years
been willing to appropriate for the
District. The joint committee flatly
contradicts this contention: "Noth-
ing is clearer to us than it never was
the intent that this District should
bear all the very extraordinary burden
of expense incident to its plan and oc-
cupancy as a national city and any
such proposed plan would be most
inequitable and unjust now."The committee finds that in com-
parison with other cities Washing-
ton is today under the operation of
the half-and-half law reasonably and
equitably taxed. Senator Works ex-
presses the opinion that in these times
of real estate depression Washington
is taxed too high. Consider the exact
words of the committee on this vital
issue. The committee says:"The rights of the people of the Dis-
trict are to be considered, and we would
therefore recommend that the people
of Washington pay a tax comparable
in assessment, rate and amount to that
tax paid by the residents of other
cities similar in population and loca-
tion to the city of Washington."
"This, we believe, is a perfectly fair,
and there should be no greater exaction
in taxation from the people of the Dis-
trict of Columbia.""The annual tax in Washington is
approximately 16.00 per capita."
"In the judgment of your committee
this is a reasonable rate of tax, and
we must, that a large proportion of the
population here pay but a small
amount of the taxes imposed.""The committee believes that inde-
pendently of the question of what
should be the proper subject of taxa-
tion in the District of Columbia, the
payment of taxes on real estate from
the assessments as they are now rep-
resented is a fair and reasonable response
in such taxation for municipal benefits
received by the citizens of the District.""The correct rule should be that the
responsibility in taxation of the resi-
dents of the District of Columbia be
as fixed and certain as the responsi-
bility of residents of other American
cities comparable with the city of
Washington; that with the payment of
such taxes as may be equitably and
properly assessed against privately
owned taxable property the financial
responsibility of the residents of the
District should be concluded; that the
present assessment valuation of pri-vately owned real estate in Washing-
ton be fair and reasonable."

Senator Works adds on this point:

"I have been entirely convinced by the
evidence taken at the hearing that the
people of the District are not under-
taxed. They are, in my judgment, bear-
ing their full share of the burden of
the expenses of the District. Just now,
when times are hard and real estate
values are depressed, I think they are
being taxed too high, because the as-
sessment of real estate is too high."Thus the committee absolutely de-
stroys the contentions upon which
repeal of the half-and-half law was
demanded by its assailants; and then
recommends in effect that the law be
repealed. Since the reasons for its
repeal have failed and since no need
is shown to exist which will be met
by its repeal, why should it not in
consistency be permitted to stand in
respect to other future expenses as
well as in respect to the funded debt?Running through the report is the
suggestion that the half-and-half re-
striction should be removed in order
that the national expenditure upon
the nation's city may be largely in-
creased, and not, as demanded by the
last House, be radically decreased or
entirely eliminated. And Senator
Works takes this position unequivocally,
pointing out in specific detail the
neglected obligations of capital
upbuilding and urging the more lib-
eral appropriations of national money
needed to meet them.The committee's words on this point
are as follows:"All of this means that the national
city, the nation's home, should be a
district where the national authority
is not only supreme, but a district
where the just pride of a great people
should insist upon its maintenance in
a manner most fitting to the dignity of
the citizens whose manifestation of
central government it is.""As a conclusion, which should be of
the greatest weight, we urge upon
Congress that its appropriations for
the expenses of the District of Colum-
bia should always be in such sum as
will not only continue the city of
Washington and the District of Colum-
bia in every respect as the splendid
and beautiful central residences of this
great nation, but also cause it to be-
come and to be forever maintained as
a model for all the cities of the world.""Our unanimous conclusion is that the
rate of taxation in the District should
be fixed and certain; that the Congress
should pursue a definite policy of regu-
lar and liberal appropriations, having
in view not only the permanent moral
and physical advancement of the city,
but also its pre-eminent beauty and
grandeur as the municipal expression
of the nation's home and its people's
pride."Washington heartily appreciates,
and is profoundly grateful to the
joint committee for, its patient,
thoughtful and impartial considera-
tion of the important questions
brought before it; for its decision in
favor of Washington on the vital
issues of alleged underassessment
and undertaxation; for the declara-
tion in substance that in a re-measure-
ment of the local community's obli-
gation toward the capital it is fully
meeting its obligation to pay reason-
able taxes; for re-measuring the na-
tion's obligation in capital upbuilding
in the enlarged terms of a keener
and more enthusiastic patriotic pride;
and finally for declaring for fixity
and certainty in the local community's
tax contribution toward capital up-
building and for a definite policy of
regular and liberal appropriations for
capital upbuilding by the nation
through Congress.The specific legislation to be pro-
posed in the District committees will
make clear the method by which,
eliminating the half-and-half provi-
sion, fixed, certain and equitable local
taxation and definite, regular and lib-
eral appropriations by Congress for
capital upbuilding are to be assured.
Meanwhile the half-and-half provision
is existing law, and, as such, will,
of course, be obeyed. The decision of
the joint committee denying the rea-
sons assigned for the immediate repeal
of this provision as unfair to the nation
makes it easy for Congress to give to
the reshaping of the organic act the
wise, careful and deliberate considera-
tion which the vital importance of the
legislation demands.The half-and-half provision is not
only the national pledge of a definite,
regular annual contribution toward
capital upbuilding; it is also the local
community's safeguard against exces-
sive and inequitable taxation by a tax-
ing body in which it is not represent-
ed. When Congress took from this
community in 1878 the privilege of
municipal self-taxation, which had
been exercised since 1800, it provided
the unrepresented community with a
safeguard against unjust taxation by
causing the alien taxing body in tax-
ing the unrepresented community cor-
respondingly to tax itself.If the capital is to continue to be
deprived of the power of self-taxa-
tion some safeguard against excessive
taxation as effective as the half-and-
half provision will, of course, be sup-
plied if the latter is withdrawn. Either
full representation in Congress
through constitutional amendment
will be quickly given, as suggested by
Senator Works; or the community's
tax burden in some sure way will be
made fixed and certain, and not sub-
ject to capricious and irregular in-
creases, as suggested by the joint
committee's report.Washington in the last Congress
was threatened with financial de-
struction by the sword of double tax-
ation, excessive and inequitable. Its
defense against this assault was the
shield of the half-and-half provision
of the organic act. Congress will not
deprive it of this shield without either
substituting another equally effective
or breaking and rendering harmless
its assailant's sword.

Training for the Fray.

Mr. Roosevelt, it is stated, will
shortly sail for a visit to the West
Indies. Rest is given as the object.
Time and locality are well chosen.
Beginning in early spring, Mr.
Roosevelt will be a busy man until
November. If the candidate of the
bull moose party again—under com-
pulsion, of course—he will have to
stump the country. If restored to
republican favor and leading that
party again, he will have his handsfull, even if he should not budge
from Oyster Bay. If simply a mem-
ber of the republican party again and
supporting the Chicago nominee, he
will yet have much work to do. Be-
fore the battle opens, therefore, he
should train for the pink of condi-
tion.He will relish and thrive on balmy
air. Whispering palms will soothe
him. He will get to be a better judge
of blue sky. And a thorough knowl-
edge of that article is valuable in
politics. A good deal of it will be
circulating this year in America. The
West Indies will serve Mr. Roose-
velt's needs and purposes.The report that upon his return he
will be received with a carefully pre-
pared acclaim, filling New York city
with a host of admirers, who will fill
the land with the noise of their wel-
come, may be a yarn for entertain-
ment's sake. It would be difficult to
repeat the demonstration in his honor
which took place upon his return
from Africa; and to the degree that
a second demonstration fell short of
the first Mr. Roosevelt as an idol
might be injured. Things, for him
and for others, have changed since
he stepped ashore in 1910, after a
year's absence, and found a multitude
impatiently waiting for a touch of his
hand and the sound of his voice.That demonstration had no politi-
cal aim. It was simply an evidence
of appreciation of a man who had
performed some remarkable services
and become a world figure. Men of
all parties united in the tribute.But a demonstration now could not
escape the imputation of being a par-
tisan maneuver, for effect first at
Chicago, and if successful there, for
effect later in the general campaign.
Hence republicans and democrats
alike would hold aloof, and only bull
moosers participate. The danger of
a fiasco would be great.

Charles W. Knapp.

The death of Charles W. Knapp in
New York yesterday came in startling
suddenness and in circumstances of
particular sadness. After a lifelong
career in journalism in St. Louis, Mr.
Knapp had very recently transferred
from the Republic of that city, with
which the name of his family had
been identified for nearly a century,
to become treasurer of the New York
Times. His new association was
most happy, and he was apparently
in the best of health, as he was in
the best of spirits when, without
warning and while he was alone in
his office, death reached him. Mr.
Knapp was one of the stalwart fig-
ures in American journalism. His in-
fluence was always for the best. Both
in his own paper and in the Associ-
ated Press, of which he was a di-
rector, he worked diligently for the
maintenance of the highest ideals of
news gathering and printing. In his
new connection there was a prospect
of even wider usefulness, and his
shockingly sudden end is the cause
of sincere grief. With him passes
from American journalism a name
that has been for many decades
closely associated with successful
newspaper enterprise.

Winter's Reminder.

A year ago today was like a May
day in Washington. The air was
warm, the skies were blue, the ground
was clear. It was a little bit of late
spring in the middle of winter. To-
day Boreas has possession, and win-
ter is strikingly in evidence. This is
not the first, but it is the most dis-
tinctly wintry day of the season. Up
to this time the weather has been
generally mild and pleasant, with
only a little cold but one dash
of snow. Now comes the reminder
that blessed as Washington is as to
its winter season, with the hard
weather usually confined to a few
weeks in late January and in Febru-
ary, with an occasional lapse over
into March, the capital is not located
in the zone of year-round warmth.
It must pay some tribute to the zo-
diac.Fears that America will be made a
dumping ground for European com-
modities after the close of the war
do not attach much importance to
the theory that labor will be scarce
abroad and its products in strong
local demand.Solicitude as to what will happen
after the war is over indicates a spirit
of preparedness which might be em-
ployed in the consideration of what
may possibly happen before the war
ends.The fact that an indemnity may be
collected for him is no great en-
couragement to a neutral passenger
on a ship that may be selected as a
torpedo mark.There is no reason, perhaps, why
the Persia should be accorded less of
the diplomatic formalities than her
predecessors in disaster.If Peace needed advertising it could
not have found a better publicity man
than Mr. Henry Ford.

The Indiana Primary.

When Mr. Wilson failed in his ad-
dress accepting the Baltimore nomi-
nation to refer to the one-term plank
of the Baltimore platform practical
politicians in both parties took no-
tice, and construed his silence as
meaning one of two things: (1) He
would let events shape themselves,
and abide by the developments
whether for or against a second can-
didacy, or (2) He did not subscribe
to the plank and would himself shape
events toward renomination.
Whether events have shaped them-
selves, or he has shaped them, the
fact is here. The one-term plank in
the Baltimore platform, along with
some of the other planks, is in the
discard. Everything now points to
Mr. Wilson's renomination; and the
democratic managers hope it may be
made by acclamation.
If it is not made by acclamation;if Mr. Wilson is forced to fight for
indorsement at St. Louis, the effect
on his candidacy for re-election will
be very injurious. Nobody will be-
lieve that the fight grew out of the
one-term plank. Opinion will be gen-
eral that the anti-Wilson democrats
virtually confessed his failure in of-
fice, and sought to escape the conse-
quences and save the day for the
party by turning him down in the
convention.And, if Mr. Wilson, why should not
Mr. Marshall be renominated by ac-
clamation? Why not in that form
indorse the ticket? The only criti-
cism heard of Mr. Marshall relates
to the question of cloture for the
Senate. But even if it is true that
he did not favor that proposition, he
had his justification in its abandon-
ment by those who did favor it. Gag
rule for the Senate is impossible, and
should never have been suggested.
Whatever changes may be necessary
to make procedure in the Senate con-
form to the later order of things need
not go to the extent of interfering
with full and free debate. If that
right is ever denied in the Senate
the public interest will suffer.The Indiana democrats will pass on
the one-term plank in March. Shall
we not see them reject it? What a
howdy-do that would be if Mr. Wil-
son should receive but a languid sup-
port in Mr. Marshall's own state! Mr.
Marshall himself is as strong there
as four years ago, when he was in-
dorsed for first place at Baltimore,
and when his nomination for second
place was ratified at the polls. It is
true he has had a "brush" or two
with the Taggart machine, but not to
his injury.Preparations are being made for
orations, by distinguished speakers on
George Washington's birthday and
Lincoln's birthday. A great man
never knows what lines of argument
his career may develop after he has
passed from the scene.The general approval which greets
the suggestion that William H. Taft
be appointed to the Supreme Court is
a reminder that in American public
life defeat does not imply sacrifice of
dignity or loss of esteem.Earl Kitchener's statement of re-
quirements gives the man behind the
gun quite as much importance as he
had before the inventors so wonder-
fully elaborated the machinery of
war.New York city is still complaining
of oppression of the up-state popu-
lation. The unsophisticated "rube"
has disappeared as a feature of met-
ropolitan humor.It is a narrow patriotism that
prompts a far inland community to
regard preparedness as something to
be considered in the light of a local
issue.Doubt still exists as to whether
the story of the voyage of the Oscar
II should be classified as humor or
pathos.The status of the Dardanelles con-
tinues to be that of unfinished busi-
ness.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Suspense.

"Us fellers at Crimson Gulch de-
cided," remarked Broncho Bob, "as
how we're fur peace. The general
sentiment was that we'd be more
peaceful if we'd disarm."
"But you are carrying a gun."
"Yes. Everybody is waitin' fur
everybody else to disarm first. I'm
kind o' afraid this reluctance an' sus-
pense is goin' to start some hard
feelin'."

To Be Considered.

"Are you in favor of votes for
women?"
"Well," replied Mr. Meekton; "of
course I want my wife to vote. But
I'm wondering what would happen
if by any chance Henrietta should
not be able to control the votes of
all the other women."

Winter and Summer.

Our friend the janitor we greet,
And hail him brother to the sun,
Who either gives us too much heat,
Or leaves us practically none.

Relief.

"Do you enjoy grand opera?"
"Yes," replied Mr. Cumrox. "It's a
great relief to me to see mother and
the girls settin' dressed up an' per-
fectly quiet lettin' somebody else
make all the noise an' do all the
dancin'.""Dar'd mebbe be mo' married hap-
piness," said Uncle Eben, "ef de aver-
age gal admired a man as much, for
bein' able to manage a plow as she
does foh bein' able to pick de guitar."

Thinking Time.

We are keepin' still an' thinkin' down
to Pohlack on the Crick.
Instead of addin' to the talk that's
flyin' round so thick.
Sometimes you've got to realize, when
work is to be done,
That mebbe conversation isn't wholly
meant fur fun.
We're tryin' to be careful an' to hit
a frame o' mind
That is serious an' observin', leavin'
prejudice behind.
We don't tell funny stories now, nor
offer language great.
Jes' fur the sake of showin' who's the
smartest in debate.Things don't seem like they used to
be, down to the general store.
We don't sit round a-joshin' no an-
other any more.
Without expectin' we will prove ex-
ceptionally wise,
We sort o' feel it's time to give our
thoughts some exercise.
A-talkin' fur the sake of talk, al-
though it's loads of fun,
Don't lead to no conclusions when
the talkin's all been done.
When we're settled on opinions, we'll
declare 'em purty quick,
But it's thinkin' time at present,
down to Pohlack on the Crick.

Woodward & Lothrop

New York—WASHINGTON—Paris.

Our Two Best Men's Clothing Makers Have Just Sent Us

TWO LARGE SHIPMENTS OF
SUITS AND OVERCOATSTo Add to Our Annual Winter Clearance of
Men's Fine Clothes

At Genuinely Reduced Prices.

The unusual merchandising power of this store has
brought splendid merchandise from the best manufacturers
to sell at decidedly attractive prices. And the makers of the
best clothing we sell have sent these large lots of additional
garments at a special price concession for this important
event.We are adding all of these Suits and Overcoats
to our season's remaining stock
and at the same sharp reductions in prices.Those who have participated in an event of this kind at
this store will appreciate the significance and the saving of
this offering to men and young men. One need have no
doubt about the variety of models and fabrics—ENOUGH
ARE HERE TO SATISFY EVERY PREFERENCE.

And the Values Are Really Exceptional

Suits and Overcoats that regularly sell up to \$20.00

Now priced at \$14.75.

Suits and Overcoats that regularly sell up to \$25.00

Now priced at \$19.75.

Suits and Overcoats that regularly sell up to \$35.00

Now priced at \$23.75.

Dress Overcoats, Big Ulsters, Double and Single Breasted Coats, Semi and
Form Fitting Coats, Belted and Plain Coats, including Hart Schaffner & Marx
Famous Varsity Six Hundred models.Suits for men and young men in all popular fabrics and models—handsome
effects, finely tailored throughout. The celebrated Varsity Fifty Five model,
made by Hart Schaffner & Marx, is represented.The receipt of these additional garments will prove of especial interest to all
men. It enables us to fill in the size range, making it again complete, and affording
a selection that is indeed worthy of your careful consideration.

Main floor, Tenth street.

Men's New Evening and Dance Footwear.

To think of correct social dress means to have correct footwear.
We have the newest models, several of them developed and made
after our own ideas this season. They have met with great success
because of their smartness and dignity of styles, combined with ut-
most comfort and practicability.DRESS FOOTWEAR, SUITABLE
FOR EVENING FUNCTIONS,
DINNERS, DANCES, THE-
ATERS, RECEPTIONS
OR FOR CLUB
WEAR.The Black Patent Leather Dance
Shoe, pictured here, is a handsome
model—ENTIRELY NEW THIS SEAS-
ON—has flexible Juniper soles, and
responds readily to the foot of the
dancer without compression
anywhere \$6.00
Patent Leather Dress Oxfords, with
plain toe and light-weight flexible
soles or Goodyear welt Juniper soles;
very popular and the most \$5.00
correct
Light-weight Turn-sole Dancing
Pumps, in patent and dull leathers; a
dancing pump strictly for young men;
handsome and fashion- \$3.00
able
Patent Leather Dancing Pumps—
NEW—fit snug around the sides and
over insteps, but do not bind or cut;
light-weight flexible welt
soles \$5.00

Main floor, Tenth street.

Infants' and Children's
Fine White DressesIn the January Sale
at Reduced Prices.This is one of the items in the January sale
that should appeal very strongly to mothers. The
Dresses involved are the most exquisite and ex-
clusive to be found, and this is the only oppor-
tunity we know of for purchasing beautiful gar-
ments of their kind at reduced prices.
Made in empire and long waist models and in
one-of-a-kind styles only, beautifully tucked
and embellished with fine laces, hand embroidery and
ribbons; entirely handmade throughout; mused
or soiled from handling. Sizes 6 months to 4 years.Were: Now:
\$2.00 \$1.50
\$2.25 \$1.75
\$3.00 \$2.00
\$4.25 \$2.75
\$6.50 \$4.50
\$7.50 \$4.75
\$8.00 \$6.50
\$10.00 \$7.50
\$12.50 \$8.50
\$15.00 \$12.00ALL CHILDREN'S COLORED HATS ARE
REDUCED TO HALF PRICE.

Third floor, F street.

Pure Food Specials.

Tulare County Brand Yellow Cling California
Peaches. These are "extra standard" carefully
selected and large size ripe fruit, packed in a heavy
sugar syrup. A regular 25c value.

Special price, 6 cans for 95c.

Hesperian Brand Hawaiian Sliced Pineapple,
packed in medium heavy syrup, and a regular 25c
value.

Special price, 6 cans for \$1.00.

Valley Farm Tomatoes; a hand-picked light red
tomato; prepared under the most sanitary conditions.

Special price, \$1.00 dozen cans.

Yuba Brand Royal Anne Cherries, regularly
sold at 25c can.

Special price, 6 cans for \$1.00.

Colonial Brand Pure Fruit and Sugar Jams,
guaranteed to contain no artificial colorings or pre-
servatives.

Special price, \$2.65 dozen jars.

Curtice Brothers' Preserves; purity and excel-
lence guaranteed; several varieties. Regularly sold
at 25c jar.

Special price, 6 jars for \$1.00.

Sugar Loaf Brand Tiny Green Lima Beans;
taste as fresh and delicious as those just picked
from the garden.

Special price, \$1.50 dozen cans.

Triangle Brand Vanilla; a vanilla that will re-
tain its flavor when used in cakes, puddings, cou-
stards and other dishes that put it in contact with
the heat of the stove.

Special price, 25c large-size bottle.

Best Michigan Potatoes, the choicest obtainable.

40c peck

Fine Grain Granulated Sugar, guaranteed best
cane sugar.

Special price for 25-pound sack, \$1.57.

Peck's Perfect Coffee, blended by experts to
please particular coffee drinkers.

3 pounds for \$1.00.

Menu Brand Sifted Early June Peas, a medium
size tender pea.

Special price, 6 cans for \$1.00.

Slider's New Process Tomato Soup, extra large
cans.

3 cans for 25c.

Fifth floor, Tenth street.

"The Military
Unpreparedness of the
United States,"

By Frederic Louis Huidekoper.

Gen. Leonard Wood, in his introduction to this
volume, declares that the work of Mr. Huidekoper
is one which should be read, and carefully read, by
all Americans who are interested in the military his-
tory and policy of their country, and who desire to
replace our past haphazard policy by one which will
be adequate to secure a reasonable degree of prepared-
ness without in any way building up a condition of
militarism.

Price, \$4.00.

Second floor, F street.

THE BOYS' STORE
OFFERS FOR SATURDAY:25 Chinchilla Overcoats,
Specially priced at \$5.75 each.
(Junior Sizes, 2½ to 10 Years.)This quarter of a hundred Overcoats, made in the
new full belted model, with three-piece belt and self col-
lars; flannel lined to make them warm for coldest
weather. Made of dark oxford close-nap chinchilla.ALL BROKEN LOTS OF OTHER OVERCOATS AT
REDUCED PRICES.Boys' Corduroy Norfolk Suits,
Special value at \$5.00.